CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for providing electronic mail (e-mail) services, said method comprising:

receiving from a sender a request for multiple-party receipt notifications, for an e-mail message;

5   in response to said request, creating at least one tag for said message, indicating that a plurality of

persons are to automatically receive said multiple-party receipt notifications; and

sending said message with said tag.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said receiving a request further comprises:

10   providing a set of menu entries to said sender; and

receiving from said sender a selection signal, indicating that said plurality of persons are to

automatically receive said multiple-party receipt notifications.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

15   receiving from said sender a selection signal, indicating that said plurality of persons also are to

receive said e-mail message; and

sending said e-mail message to said plurality of persons.

4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

20   receiving said message from said sender;

providing said message to a recipient; and

in response to said request, automatically transmitting said multiple-party receipt notifications to

said plurality of persons.

25   5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

providing to a user

a representation of said e-mail message,

together with information as to who has been provided with the content of said e-mail message;

wherein said user is one of said plurality of persons.

6. The method of Claim 5, further comprising:

storing and updating said information.

7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising at least one limiting action chosen from:

disabling said multiple-party receipt notifications as to a user, responsive to said user's request;

limiting said multiple-party receipt notifications' operation, based on a domain policy;

limiting said multiple-party receipt notifications' operation, based on a permissions policy; and

limiting the content of said multiple-party receipt notifications.

8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting a secondary receipt notification to said sender;

wherein said secondary receipt notification notifies said sender that one of said plurality of persons

received one of said multiple-party receipt notifications.

9. A method for providing e-mail services, said method comprising:

receiving a message from a sender;

providing said message to a recipient; and

in response to a request from said sender, automatically transmitting multiple-party receipt

notifications to a plurality of persons;

whereby said plurality of persons may be notified that said recipient has been provided with the

content of said message.

10. The method of Claim 9, further comprising:

providing to a user

a representation of said e-mail message,

together with information as to who has been provided with the content of said e-mail

message;

wherein said user is one of said plurality of persons.

11. The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

storing and updating said information.

12. The method of Claim 9, further comprising at least one limiting action chosen from:

disabling said multiple-party receipt notifications as to a user, responsive to said user's request;

limiting said multiple-party receipt notifications' operation, based on a domain policy;

limiting said multiple-party receipt notifications' operation, based on a permissions policy; and

limiting the content of said multiple-party receipt notifications.

13. The method of Claim 9, further comprising:

transmitting a secondary receipt notification to said sender;

wherein said secondary receipt notification notifies said sender that one of said plurality of persons

received one of said multiple-party receipt notifications.

14. A system for providing e-mail services, said system comprising:

means for receiving from a sender a request for multiple-party receipt notifications, for an e-mail

message;

means responsive to said request, for creating at least one tag for said message indicating that said

plurality of persons are to automatically receive said multiple-party receipt notifications;

means for providing said message to a recipient;

means responsive to said tag, for automatically transmitting said multiple-party receipt

notifications to said plurality of persons; and

means for providing limits for said multiple-party receipt notifications.

15. The system of Claim 14, further comprising:

 means for providing to a user

 a representation of said e-mail message,

 together with information as to who has been provided with the content of said e-mail

message;

wherein said user is one of said plurality of persons.

16. The system of Claim 15, further comprising:

means for storing and updating said information.

17. The system of Claim 14, wherein said means for providing limits further comprises at least one of:

means for limiting said multiple-party receipt notifications' operation, based on a domain policy;

means for limiting the content of said multiple-party receipt notifications;

means for limiting said multiple-party receipt notifications' operation, based on a permissions policy; and

means responsive to a user's request, for disabling said multiple-party receipt notifications as to said user.

18. The system of Claim 14, further comprising:

means for transmitting a secondary receipt notification to said sender;

wherein said secondary receipt notification notifies said sender that one of said plurality of persons received one of said multiple-party receipt notifications.

19. A computer-usable medium having computer-executable instructions for providing e-mail services, said computer-usable medium comprising:

means for receiving a request from a sender, specifying a plurality of persons to receive multiple-party receipt notifications of an e-mail message;

means responsive to said request, for creating at least one tag for said message indicating that said plurality of persons are to automatically receive said multiple-party receipt notifications;

means for providing said message to a recipient;

means responsive to said tag, for automatically transmitting said multiple-party receipt notifications to said plurality of persons; and

means for providing limits for said multiple-party receipt notifications.

20. The computer-usable medium of Claim 19, further comprising:

means for providing to a user

a representation of said e-mail message,

together with information as to who has been provided with the content of said e-mail message;

wherein said user is one of said plurality of persons.

21. The computer-usable medium of Claim 20, further comprising:

means for storing and updating said information.

22. The computer-usable medium of Claim 19, wherein said means for providing limits further comprises at least one of:

means for limiting said multiple-party receipt notifications' operation, based on a domain policy;

means for limiting the content of said multiple-party receipt notifications;

means for limiting said multiple-party receipt notifications' operation, based on a permissions policy; and

means responsive to a user's request, for disabling said multiple-party receipt notifications as to said user.

23. The computer-usable medium of Claim 19, further comprising:

means for transmitting a secondary receipt notification to said sender;

wherein said secondary receipt notification notifies said sender that one of said plurality of persons received one of said multiple-party receipt notifications.